

(4) calls upon the President to utilize all available and appropriate means on behalf of the United States to support the implementation of the provisions of the "Treaty of Understanding, Cooperation and good Neighborliness between Romania and the Republic of Hungary" and to promote their efforts for regional cooperation as the best means of bringing these two countries into NATO and to ensure lasting security in the region.

IN HONOR OF CHARLES F. VANCE

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS
OF VIRGINIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF
OF VIRGINIA

HON. JAMES P. MORAN
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, it gives us great pleasure to rise and pay tribute to Mr. Charles F. Vance, who is this year's recipient of the Northern Virginia Community Foundations's [NVCF] Founders Award. Mr. Vance is being honored for his dedicated service to the Northern Virginia community.

The Northern Virginia Community Foundation is a nonprofit public charity which provides donors with a flexible and efficient vehicle for charitable giving to benefit the arts, community improvement, education, health, and youth programs. The Founders Award is NVCF's most prestigious award and is presented annually to an individual who has a record of outstanding community service and dedication to the improvement of Northern Virginia.

This year's recipient, Mr. Charles F. Vance, is the chairman and CEO of Vance International, Inc., a firm he founded in 1984. Vance International provides the private sector a full line of security services, including executive protection, uniformed services, investigations, tactical response teams, training of security personnel, technical surveys, and consulting.

Prior to entering the private security field, Mr. Vance served for 14 years as a special agent and supervisor in the U.S. Secret Service. During his tenure, Mr. Vance was assigned on a permanent basis to President Gerald R. Ford, and Vice Presidents Hubert Humphrey and Spiro Agnew. He also protected several foreign heads of state.

A firm believer that businesses are an integral part of their surrounding communities, Mr. Vance serves on the Northern Virginia roundtable and is a member of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce. He is an active member of several business-to-community organizations. He also has been a major supporter of more than 50 charitable organizations, such as Youth for Tomorrow, the American Heart Association, the Close Up Foundations, Fight for Children, Special Olympics, United Cerebral Palsy, America's Smithsonian, and the KFS Memorial Golf Classic.

For his exemplary business and community service, Mr. Vance has been awarded Arthur Anderson's 1995 and 1996 Fast Track Award for revenue growth and their 1996 Enterprise Award for Best Business Practices. Mr. Vance was also awarded Inc. Magazine's 1995 Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

He and his wife, Cynthia Steele, live in Northern Virginia. They have two daughters,

Tyne and Heather, and are expecting a baby early next month.

Mr. Speaker, we know our colleagues will join us in saluting the commitment that Mr. Vance has made to helping our community. He is, indeed, well-deserving of this distinguished award.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES AND ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1996

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce, along with my colleagues Mr. SCHUMER of New York, Mr. PALLONE of New Jersey, and Mr. MILLER of California, President Clinton's Environmental Crimes and Enforcement Act of 1996.

Our Nation's environmental quality is among the best in the world, in part thanks to laws like the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Air Act that we have passed here in Congress. Over the last 25 years, these laws have worked to make our air cleaner, our water safe to drink, our lakes and rivers safe to swim in. But these laws are only pieces of paper. Effective enforcement of these laws is needed to protect public health and environmental quality.

The Environmental Crimes and Enforcement Act will provide new tools to investigate and prosecute environmental crimes.

For example, the bill adds an attempt provision to environmental statutes so that environmental crimes can be prosecuted even when law enforcement agents come upon and stop a crime in progress. Under current law, if agents conducting surveillance of a hazardous waste transporter stop the transporter from illegally dumping the hazardous waste, the perpetrator cannot be prosecuted for illegal dumping because no crime has occurred. Only if the agents were to allow the dumpers to complete their crime, and possibly cause damage to the environment and risk to public health, could the perpetrators be prosecuted. With an attempt provision, illegal dumpers can be stopped before causing environmental damage and still be held responsible for their actions. Also, an attempt provision will allow Federal agents to use benign substitutes for hazardous wastes in undercover operations.

The act would also extend the statute of limitations where the violator has concealed the environmental crime. In one typical incident, a waste hauler buried 55-gallon drums of toxic waste in a vacant lot rather than disposing of them properly. The concealed drums deteriorated and leaked, causing environmental contamination. Because the drums were not discovered within the short statute of limitations, no criminal charges could be brought against the hauler. This provision will ensure that polluters cannot escape justice by hiding their wrongdoing.

The bill would enhance penalties where a criminal violation of environmental law causes a death or serious injury. Police officers, fire fighters, and members of the public can suffer serious injury or death from toxic chemicals or other hazardous materials—it is appropriate to make the punishment fit the crime in these cases.

The bill will also enable Federal courts to ensure that those charged with environmental crimes do not shield or dispose of assets needed to pay for restitution.

In my home State of Rhode Island, the U.S. attorney, the EPA, the State attorney general, and the State Department of Environmental Management have formed a taskforce to target and prioritize environmental enforcement issues. This taskforce is accompanied by a citizen's advisory group that suggests priorities for enforcement. In a State like Rhode Island, where tourism and economic growth depend upon a clean and healthy environment, this type of cooperation is essential. The Environmental Crimes and Enforcement Act will enhance such partnerships between Federal law enforcement and State, local, and tribal governments.

As Attorney General Janet Reno said when announcing this proposal, "The American people want, and have a right to expect, strong environmental protection. This bill will provide us with better tools" to achieve those goals.

TRIBUTE TO ALFREDA H. ABBOTT

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Alfreda H. Abbott and her 25 years of dedicated and committed service to our community. A native of Oakland, CA, Ms. Abbott earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley. Ms. Abbott has also been a recipient of many awards including the Allen Temple Baptist Church Outstanding Leadership Award, the Zeta Phi Beta Award, Ella Hill Hutch Political Action Award, Oakland Consumer Council Award, BWOPA Leadership Award and the East Oakland Democratic Club Democrat of the Year Award.

Ms. Abbott played a very active role in the 1950's as an advocate for the Oakland Poverty Program and was an original member of the Oakland Black Caucus. Prior to 1972, Ms. Abbott served as a Deputy Probation Officer for Alameda County, and as a Group Counselor for the Social Services Bureau. Ms. Abbott has also served as Vice Chair of the Oakland Planning Commission. She has been affiliated with many organizations such as, the Oakland Museum Association, the Bay Area Urban League and Planned Parenthood.

Ms. Abbott is also a founder and former Political Action Chairperson and serves currently as the 1st Vice President for BWOPA, statewide.

In 1985, Ms. Abbott was elected to the Board of Education, Oakland Unified School District, and in 1990, was elected to serve as Board President.

Most recently, Ms. Abbott has served as the Administrative Aide for Senator Nicholas C. Petris, where she has rendered her outstanding services to the constituents of the 9th Senatorial District, and throughout the State of California.

Because of her dedication and compassion, Ms. Abbott has been an invaluable part of the community and is very deserving of the highest commendations and public appreciation.

It is with great honor that I pay tribute to an exemplary individual, who without fail has